



THE HON PETER GARRETT MP

Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth

BUDGET 2011-12

MEDIA RELEASE

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National School Chaplaincy Program

More schools will have access to a chaplain under a \$222 million boost to the popular *National School Chaplaincy Program*.

The Minister for School Education, Peter Garrett, today announced funding to extend the program for the approximately 2,700 schools that currently have a chaplain and allow up to 1,000 additional schools to access a chaplain.

“The funding will target schools in regional, remote and disadvantaged locations most in need of program support and will benefit students, parents, school staff and the broader school community.”

This Budget is all about responsibility, opportunity and getting the fundamental reforms right, and central to that is ensuring every child gets the best start in life.

Mr Garrett said the *National School Chaplaincy Program* is a voluntary program that assists schools and their communities to support the spiritual wellbeing of their students.

This may include support and guidance about ethics, values, relationships, spirituality and religious issues; the provision of pastoral care; and enhancing engagement with the broader community.

“The Gillard Government believes in the power of education to transform lives and the vital role schools play in promoting the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, moral, spiritual and aesthetic development and wellbeing of young Australians, and in ensuring the nation’s ongoing economic prosperity and social cohesion,” said Mr Garrett.

The Gillard Government continues to deliver reforms to give every child a great education.

For further information on the National School Chaplaincy Program visit www.deewr.gov.au

Minister’s Media Contact: Kate Pasterfield 0437965071

DEEWR Media: media@deewr.gov.au